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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) to (c) Government have appointed an One-Man Committee to evaluate the work of basic training schools. The report of the committee has been received and it is under consideration.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, have the Government appointed any committee to go into the question of basic education in elementary schools and not training schools?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The question, Sir, is about basic education, as such. An One-Man Committee was appointed and the committee has presented a report and that report is under examination of the Government. Apart from that, I would like to add that the Central Government have appointed a committee which is going into the question.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Is there any scheme for reorientation of training of elementary school teachers to relate their training to basic education?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Yes, that is the idea, Sir. We are to reorientate many things, Basic education was originally evolved under different circumstances. Now we have to see what changes are required to suit the present needs. When there are a large number of schools, we have to see what changes are required to be made under the scheme of basic education.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Sir, till the Government come to a definite conclusion on the recommendations of the One-Man Committee, will they stop converting elementary schools into the basic schools and also give retraining to originally basic-trained teachers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The recommendations of the One-Man Committee are under the examination of the Government. Apart from that, Government look forward to the recommendations of the committee that has been appointed by the Central Government, and meanwhile there won't be any changes.

Water-supply and Sewage Board

* 206 *Q.*—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal for the constitution of a Water-supply and Sewage Board on the lines of the State Electricity Board; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (*a*) & (*b*) The question is under the consideration of the Government.

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வித்துவான் தி. முத்துக்கண்ணப்பன்: இந்த போர்டு அமைக்கப்படுவதன் நோக்கம் என்ன?

கனம் திருமதி ஜோதி வெங்கடாசலம்: போர்டு அமைப்பதே பரிசீலனையில் இருக்கிறது. அமைத்த பிறகு நோக்கத்தைச் சொல்ல முடியும்.

Synthetic anti-malarials

*207 Q.—Dr. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 22 on 11th August 1960 (a) whether there is any restriction on the import of synthetic anti-malarials; and

(b) if so, the arrangements made for the availability of alternative drugs?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (a) Yes, Sir. The import of synthetic anti-malarials is restricted to 15 per cent of past imports in respect of chloroquine and its salts (in bulk) while the import quota is nil in respect of proguanil hydrochloride and lactate.

(b) The manufacture of synthetic anti-malarials, such as amodiaquin and chloroquine has been started in India. Four firms, three in Maharashtra and one in West Bengal, have been licensed to manufacture those drugs. Indigenous production supplemented by limited imports is expected to be sufficient to meet the country's requirements. Hence, the question of making available alternative drugs does not arise.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN: Sir, may I know what is the quantity of indigenous medicine or material so far produced?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: Sir, a separate question may be put.

Old age pension

*208 Q.—Sri SP. K. A. LAKSHMANAN CHETTIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that old age pension is denied to aged parents who have been discarded by the sons due to poverty on the ground that they have sons?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: No, Sir.

*209 Q.—Sri SP. K. A. LAKSHMANAN CHETTIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant pension to aged people who have been left discarded by their well-to-do sons; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?